

FISCAL NOTE

HB 121 - SB 351

March 31, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the investigatory powers of the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter by allowing the attorney general to conduct an investigation, with the assistance of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, into specific proceedings of the criminal justice system if the attorney general receives credible evidence that improprieties have occurred. Current law gives the attorney general the authority to investigate judges and district attorneys general when the attorney general receives information that would constitute probable cause that the official has violated state law.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes the provisions of the bill will require assessment of a significant number of additional cases of alleged criminal justice system improprieties to determine credibility prior to referral for further investigation. Currently, the attorney general is authorized to conduct an investigation and initiate the criminal prosecution of any judge, chancellor or judicial elected official and/or district attorney general who may have violated any state criminal law.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director